pollution recovery mechanism. Various other measures including making appropriate legislative changes to deal with the emergency situations have also been recommended.

Land management in major ports

*150. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has written to the Indian Ports Association to prepare a comprehensive information system on land management pattern in major ports of the country;

(b) if so, whether response has been received from the association;

(c) if so, the concrete measures and steps his Ministry is considering to take to improve the major ports in the country;

(d) whether all the State Governments concerned have to provide more land, etc. for development of ports; and

(e) whether the Union Government has approved Rs. 1008 crores for development of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) and (b) The Union Ministry for Shipping has requested Indian Ports Association (IPA) to evaluate the online system of land management of Tuticorin Port Trust. The Tuticorin Port Trust has recently introduced an online system to monitor and handle its land in order to bring transparency which includes digitization of all plots of land with its status and classification, automatic generation of alert message and online request for processing. The Indian Ports Association has been asked to evaluate this online system and make necessary study, if it is workable, so that it could be implemented in all major Port Trusts.

(c) Improvement/modernization of ports is a continuous process where various projects are taken up by the individual ports based on their requirement and forecast. The Department of Shipping has formulated a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) for modernization of the Port sector of facilitate enhanced private investment, improve service quality and promote competitiveness. Under the NMDP, 276 projects have been identified in the port sector for implementation in the Major ports which are to be taken up in a period from 2004-05 to 2011-12. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the port sector which include berth development, deepening of channel, procurement of equipment and port craft, rail/road connectivity and other associated work. Till date 36 projects of the port sector with total cost of Rs.3930 crores have been completed under NMDP.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

National highway development in NER

*151. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: